

THE
HISTORY
OF
MOLL FLANDERS, &c.

Who was born in *Newgate*, and, during a Life of continued Varieties for threescore Years, was twelve years a whore, five times a Wife, whereof once to her own Brother, twelve Years a Thief, was eighteen times in *Bridewell*, nine times in *New Prison*, eleven times in *Woodstreet Compter*, six times in the *Poultry Compter*, fourteen times in the *Gatehouse*, twenty-five times in *Newgate*; fifteen times whipt at the Cart's-tail, four times burnt in the Hand, once condemn'd for Life, eight Years transported to *Virginia*; at last grew rich, liv'd honest and dy'd a Penitent.

Written from her own Memorandums, and adorned with cuts.



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T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F

Moll Flanders, &c.



THE most remarkable account that I can give of my Parents, is, that my Father was hanged for Felony, and my mother transported for the same fact, after she was delivered of me in *Newgate*; from whence I was taken by some Gypsies, whom

whom I remember, and left me at *Colchester* in *Essex*; where the Magistrates taking Compassion on me, put me to Nurse; with whom I lived thirteen Years, till such Time as she died; and then being fancied by a rich Gentlewomen, for my nice Needle Work, I shared in the Education of her Daughters in Learning to dance, speak *French*, and playing upon Music, these Qualifications, together with my Beauty caused my Lady's eldest Son to pretend Love to me; and at last, with his alluring



Speeches, and powerful Gold, his melting Kisses, and affectionate Promises that he would

would marry me as soon as he came to Age, he prevailed upon me to surrender my Virginity up to him, and to use me whensoever he pleased; but scarce a Year had expired, before that his youngest Brother pretended Love also, in such an open and honest Manner, insomuch that all the Family took Notice of it. How I should make a Wife to him, and the same Time be a Whore to the eldest Brother, I could not tell without being ruined; as loving the former to Extremity, being with Child by him, but in short there happening such Disputes between the two Brothers it had like to have driven me from the Family. But the eldest Brother consented I should marry the youngest, as not caring to marry me himself, behold! I privately wedded him, who the first Night came so drunk to my bed, that I easily perswaded him he had done what the eldest Brother had done before him.

In two Years after he died, leaving me with two Children, who were taken Care of by his Parents, and having then a tolerable good Fortune in my own hands, I married a Draper, who soon was forced from

from me for Debt into *France*, which obliged me to take a Lodging in the *Mint*; where, in a Widow's Habit, I took upon



me the Name of *Mrs Flanders*. Here I was courted as a Mistress by several lewd Men, but all these I scorned, and it was my good Fortune to marry a Gentleman, whose Estate was in *Virginia*; and whom I deceived, by pretending to him I was a greater Fortune than I really was. But indeed, he proved

proved a very good Husband, and prevailed with me to go over with him into *Virginia*; where I was kindly received by my Husband's Mother. But here I found that our Family was of the *Newgate* Train, she shewing me where she was burnt in the hand, bidding me not wonder; for that Mayor — was an eminent Pick Pocket, Justice B——r was a shop Lifter, and Tom W——r who had so narrowly escaped the Nubbing Post, was there become an excellent Dissenting Teacher.

Here I lived about three Years without having Children, but not without an inward Remorse, as knowing my second husband was not dead. And this set me upon returning again into *England*; tiezing my Spouse for that Purpose; who wanted to know very much the true Occasion of it. But I told his Mother, who came to pump me, that her Story she had told me of his being transported, confirmed me in the Belief she was my Mother, who was delivered on me in *Newgate*, and by which means she was saved from the Gallows. This very much surprized her, but dreading the Thoughts of having another Child by

by my Husband, I was forced to disclose the Matter to excuse my Coldness to him in his embraces. Upon hearing this, he fell into so deep a Melancholy, that twice he attempted to hang himself, but was prevented ; and it was with very much Difficulty before I could obtain leave to return to *England* from him, which I did in the Month of *August*, after eight Years Continuance in that Country, landing an *Milford Haven* in *Wales*, and in nine Weeks arrived in *London*.

Some Time after I went to *Bath* where making my Circumstances known, my Landlady lodg'd and boarded me at a very cheap Rate, till the Spring, when I was courted by a Gentleman who had a Wife distempered in her Head, and I received several presents from him, as a Hundred Guineas at one Time, Fifty at another for taking care of him in an Illness. In short, I found him my best Friend, taking several Journies with him, till at last he got me with child ; and was delivered of a fine Boy, going by the Name of *Sir Walter Cleave's* Lady. From *Bath*, we returned to *Hammer Smith*, near *London*. Six Years
I lived

I lived with this Gentleman, by whom I had three Children, till at length he fell sick in a House he had taken for his Wife and Family at *Bloomsbury*. But upon his Recovery, I found that I was slighted, no doubt thro' Remorse of Conscience. Yet he sent me a letter, with a bank Note of 50 Pounds, promising he would take Care of my little Boy, but wanting to get the other Fifty Pounds of him, I signified a general Release, which put an end to that affair.

But it was not long before it was my fortune to get an Acquaintance with a Clerk belonging to the Bank; whose Wife having made him a Cuckold, by keeping Company with an Officer of the Army; and after that with an Apprentice belonging to a Draper. I had like to have become his Bride, promising upon that Account to get a Divorce from his other Wife.

But whilst this was doing, going down into *Lancashire*, and being imagined to be a Fortune of fifteen thousand Pounds, I was married to an *Irish* Gentleman, by a *Romish* Clergyman; but he finding that I had no such Effects as I like a false woman had

represented unto him, nor he any Estate more than what he had spent in his Equipage in courting me.

He therefore left me as much money as would bear my Charges up to *London*, discharged me from the marriage, left a letter for me upon the Table, and went away the next Morning. But after he had discharged his Servants, he returned at night to my Joy, and accompanied me as far as to *Dunstable*, where we afterwards parted after mutual Instruction had passed for our future Course of Life.

At *London* I lodg'd at an old Midwife's, as being big with Child, where, (as I had given Directions) a Letter was sent to me from out of *Lancashire*; which had been directed there by the Clerks of the Bank; who told me that he had obtained a decree against his Wife, and that he was at my Service. To this I returned an immediate Answer, under a Cover, that I would be in Town the latter End of the Year. And indeed, after having opened the Matter to the Midwife, and being delivered of a brave Boy, which, with much Difficulty, I allowed

I allowed her to dispose of, I went to *Stone* in *Lancashire*, and so taking Coach, writ a



letter to my Clerk to meet me at *Brickbill*; there in a short Time he prevailed with me to marry him. The next Day, from the Window of the Inn, I beheld my *Lancashire* Husband, with two others pass by; when soon after they were all three pursued as Highwaymen; but returning safely with my Husband to Town, I lived with him exceeding happy, for the space of five Years, by whom I had two Children. Afterwards I rewarded my Midwife for her Fidelity to me. But my Husband's Clerk robbing him, it flung him into such a grief, that

that it immediately ended his Life ; which entirely destroyed all my Happiness.

Soon after this, being reduced to very great Extremity, I was tempted to steal a small bundle out of an Apothecary's shop in *Leadenhall-street*, in which I found a suit of Child-bed Linen, fine Lace, a Silver Mug and Spoons, three Shillings, and other Matters. The next thing which I did, I inveigl'd a little Child away, from whom I took its Gold Necklace ; but though I had it in a private Place, I would not kill nor hurt it, and put it in the Way Home again. Another Time I took out of a shop at *Stepney*, two Rings ; One a Diamond Ring, and the other a plain One ; And as I was once in *Lombard-street*, a Thief being pursued dropp'd a bundle of Silk, the which I made off with ; and afterwards disposed of it to a good Advantage, and not as the Thieves commonly do, for a Song. Another time, I stole a Silver Tankard out of an Ale-house, which I afterwards sold to a Pawnbroker, who greatly encouraged me in such things. She shortly afterwards help'd me to a Mistress, who made me more expert in the Thieving art ; but not more Fortunate ; for first, the

she herself, with another of her Scholars, were apprehended, and committed to *Newgate*, for stealing two Pieces of cambrick from a Linen Draper, in *Cheapside*: Both of whom were condemn'd to die, but only our Scholar was excused; for the other came off with what they call a Circuit Pardon from the Judge.

I cannot but reflect upon one Crime I did in taking from the Hands of a Gentlewoman a Bundle of Plate, when her house was on fire, and conveying it away to my own Use, and so very fortunate was I in escaping, that I became exceeding remarkable amongst the Thieves; for none was so great as *Moll Flanders*; but at length, being threaten'd to be impeach'd by some in *Newgate*, I cloathed myself in a man's Habit, tho' a smooth Face (otherwise personable and tall enough) might soon have betrayed me. I kept Company with another Thief, who being discovered as he was stealing some Goods, was taken, and I happily escaped. I had some Time after this the Happiness of seeing him hang'd.

My

My Name was as well known at the *Old Baily*, as a remarkable Traitor is at the Secretaries Office. But being now an excellent Pick-pocket, as well as a Strumpet, I took from a Cull, after I had made him drunk, his Gold Watch, with his Silk Purse of Gold, fine Perriwig, Sword, and Snuff-box; and leaping out of the coach (which stood still to let another Coach pass by), I left my Fool to mourn his Disaster. This Success made me follow Whoring again, but finding the Profit of it too small to support me, I return'd again to my old Trade of shop-lifting.

And one Time as I was going along the Street through *Covent Garden*, there was a Cry of, stop Thief, stop Thief; a Mercer's Shop having been robb'd, and I secur'd as the Transgressor, and most haughtily insulted by the Mercer and his Servants. In a little Time they got the right Thief, who was much in the same Habit as mine. But for this affront, I prosecuted him at law made the shop-keeper come to an Agreement, whereby I got an Hundred and fifty Pounds; so that all this, with my other Substance, might have maintain'd me, but
I have

I having got an Itch of Thieving, I could in no manner leave it off.

I had an Opportunity of commencing a Coiner, but that was such a beggarly and yet so dangerous a Business, that I would never embark in it. Nor could I ever yet be brought into the Society of House-breakers. No Persons could be more dextrous in stealing Gold Watches than I from the Ladies Sides, either at the Park, the play-house, or at Church. I was also very dextrous at Gaming, and at one Time cleared 73 Guineas. The uncommon Success I had, made me go into the Country, where at *Cambridge*, *Sturbridge Fair*, and at *New Market*, I expertly performed the same Pranks over again; And at *Ipswich* I robbed a *Dutchman* of a Portmanteau, by pretending to be his Wife in an Inn, and in which was a very large Quantity of Gold and Silver.

But afterwards coming up to *London*, and venturing boldly into a fine Silver-smith's Shop, while none were there, I was perceived by a shop-keeper over the Way; but as I had a Glance of him, so I meddled with

with nothing, and a Justice of Peace coming by, being called in, clear'd me with flying Colours.

Another Time, going into a Sempstrefs's Shop in *Cheapside*, and cheapening half a Dozen of very good Holland Shifts, I doubted the Length of them; upon which the Sempstrefs flipt one of the Smocks upon her, which gave me the Advantage to Pin it with two or three Pins to her Petticoat, and taking up the rest, with other Parcels of Muslin, run away out of the Shop. The Sempstrefs endeavouring then to pull off her Smock, pull'd up her Clouts and running after, cry'd, *Stop Thief, Stop Thief*, with all she had expos'd to the Public; who taking her for a mad Woman, I got clear off with my Booty, and the Sempstrefs was banter'd to her dying Day, besides losing to the Value of fifty Pounds worth of Muslin.

But after happening to steal some brocaded Silk from a Mercer's Shop, I was apprehended, and being carried before a Justice, was committed to *Newgate*, the Place of my Nativity, where it is impossible

ble for me to express the Horrors of a disconsolate Mind.

Here the Wretches triumph'd over me. What! said they, is *Mrs Flanders* come to *Newgate*, what *Mrs Mary*, and after plain *Moll Flanders*. But I was forc'd to comfort myself with this Peace of *Newgate* Poetry.

*If I swing by this String,
I shall hear the * Bell ring,
And there's an End of poor Moll.*

Here I got into a blessed Acquaintance whose Company soon made me as hardened as themselves; where to my Amazement I beheld among them my former *Lancashire* Husband, and whose Misfortunes he placed upon my Account. Here my old Tutoress had done what she could for me, to make up the Matter with my prosecutors; for she endeavoured, tho' to no Purpose, to hinder the Jury from finding the Bill of indictment against me. At the Sessions I had pleaded not Guilty, but was found

found guilty of Felony, and so received Sentence of Death accordingly.

So concerned was my poor Governess, that having repented herself of all her Sins,



He sent me a Minister also, who represented to me these four Important Truths; Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell. When the dead Warrant came down, he visited me as before; the next Day, I heard the dismal Toll of *St Sepulchre's* Bell, and then was informed of my reprieve, the
unex-

unexpected Joy made me immediately fall into a terrible Swoon.

After this, I was put on Board, in Order for Transportation, with several other Convicts, as they call'd us, where we endured great Hardships, as the first Night lying upon the bare Boards, but afterwards were allowed the liberty of little Cabins, if we had any Cloaths to lay in them. That Night the Ship fell down into a



Place which they call *Busby-hole*; from whence I sent a Letter by the Boatswain, who came on Shore, to my Governess, and
to

to my poor *Lancashire* Husband. The next Day my Governess brought me a Sea-Bed and a Chest; in one Drawer of which was my Money; and gave me an Answer to that which I sent to my Husband; who hoped, though he could not go with me in the same Ship, yet to see me in *Virginia*, but by Intercession, he was afterwards put on Board us, where my Money furnished us with good Accommodation. So we took likewise several Materials with us for the Work of Planting; and so we sailed from the *Downs* the 13th of *April*, and arrived safely on the Coast of *Virginia* where I soon perceived my own Son, and my Brother his Father, whom I had made my Husband twenty Years ago; but my Mother had been dead some Time before, having left a considerable Plantation to me and my Heirs.

Many were the Ways I pondered on to get from the Sight of my Family in these wretched Circumstances; since I could not bear the Sight of my Child, my Brother and Husband, who lived near that Place I had taken for my Settlement; and upon this very Account we moved with all our Effects

fects into *Maryland*, after a long and unpleasant Voyage, where we bought us two Servants; an English Woman and a *Negro* Man; then took a piece of Ground of 50 Acres, and built a decent House thereon. And indeed our affairs went on very prosperously, so that we looked upon one another with pleasure; and then I obtained my Husband's Consent to go to *Virginia*; and to discover myself to my Brother. When I landed, I writ a Letter to him telling him of several particuar affairs, which Letter came into his Sons hand, who asking the Messenger where the Gentlewoman was that wrote it, he came to me, which was about seven Miles off, attended by two servants on Horseback, and coming to me, Kiss'd me, saying, *Dear Mother are you alive?* And then we fell to weeping.

He told me that his Father was quite Superannuated, and beside himself, which made him conceal the Letter from him, that the Plantation which my Mother had left me was in his Possession; so for the Produce of it he gave a Hundred Pounds engaging to be my trusty and faithful Steward.

Steward. Indeed in all his Actions, he proved a most dutiful and tender Child, allotting Servants to wait upon me, and treating me with as great Splendour, as if I had been a Sovereign Princess. I presented him with a Gold Watch, and taking my Leave of him, after I had acquainted him that I intended to marry with a Gentleman who came over with me. I set Sail in a Sloop my Son had provided, and came safe to my own Plantations again, bringing over with me three fine Horses with curious Harness and Saddles, some Hogs, two Cows, and a great many other Things.

When I had related all this very good Fortune to my Husband, he lifted up his Hands in an Extacy of joy, and gave Thanks to Heaven for this sudden and so happy a Change. Soon after this arrived a Cargo from *England*, which my Governess had sent me; with three Women Servants; which made my Husband amazed, especially when I assured him, that they were paid for. How says he, was I deceived, when I married a Wife in *Lancashire*; I think I married a Fortune and a good Fortune too.

I had

I had taken care to buy those Things for my Husband which I knew he took a Delight to wear; as two good long Wigs two Silver hilted Swords, three or four fine Fowling Pieces, a fine Saddle, with Holsters and Pistols, very handsome, with a Scarlet Cloak; and in one Word, every thing I could think on that might possibly oblige him, and to make him appear, as he really was, a very fine Gentleman. I must not omit informing my Readers that one of the Wenches my Governess sent us happened to come double, having been got with Child by one of the Seamen, in the Ship, as she owned afterwards, before the Ship got so far as *Gravesend*; so she bro't us a stout Boy about seven Months after her Landing.

After my Brother's or former Husband's Death, my Son visited us, where my dear Husband made him most exceeding welcome; and truly no Person could be blest'd with a more dutiful Child. In this happy Manner we lived for the Space of 20 years resolving to spend the remainder of our Days in a sincere Penitence for the wicked Lives we had lived. And this we shall do
by

by our extensive Charity, and liberal Hospitality to all Men.

Thus far have we given an account of Moll Flanders, taken from her own Memorandums, to which we shall add, that we have an Account from Virginia, that she died lately, having prepared for that Charge with the greatest Piety and Devotion. And as she perceived her Dissolution to draw near, she bequeathed several Legacies for charitable Uses; and dying her Funeral was perform'd with great Solemnity, being interr'd in St Mary's Church in Virginia; on whom this Epitaph was written.

Newgate thy dwelling, with thy Beauty,
made thee.

A Goddess seem; and that alone betray'd
thee.

Twelve Years a Whore, a Wife unto thy
brother,

And such a Thief, there scarce could be ano-
ther.

Unwearied Traveller! when e'er you roam;
Lo! in this Place remote to find a Tomb;
Transported hence to Heav'n 'tis hop'd
'thou'rt sent:

Who wicked liv'd, but dy'd a Penitent.

F I N I S.